

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277.

The current broadcast media ownership rules have already done damage to our democracy by limiting information and opinions that were previously more readily available. The FCC should promote greater diversity of ownership. The proposed new rules would take us in just the opposite direction.

To allow further concentration of ownership diminishes the ability of every person to encounter a broad spectrum of opinions - whether directly expressed or indirectly through the arts - and to that extent diminishes democracy.

The job of the FCC is to protect the marketplace of ideas and the public's access to it. The marketplace shrinks as the input is placed into the hands of fewer and fewer entities.

I think it is important for the FCC to consider not only the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest, that is - the public interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

Elaine Phelps